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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

Executive Registry

85- 4668

November 21, 1985

Honorable Dave Durenberger
Chairman
Select Committee on Intelligence
United States Senate
Room 211, Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We recently read with dismay in the newspapers of remarks attributed to you which disparage the Director of Central Intelligence and the institution which he heads. As Republican Members of the House Intelligence Committee, we deplore these inaccurate characterizations of Bill Casey and the fine Agency he leads. The intelligence community has made enormous strides under Bill Casey's stewardship. Because of his insightful and effective direction, U.S. intelligence is in far better shape today than it was before he became Director of Central Intelligence. The comments attributed to you impugn the reputation and integrity of Bill Casey and the dedicated employees who serve under him.

The practice seems to have developed by which some Members of the Senate Intelligence Committee discuss intelligence issues in the public limelight rather than within the customary congressional intelligence oversight relationship. We hope you would understand and agree that the debate of intelligence policies and issues is much different than the debate of tax policy or the deficit. Quiet discretion is absolutely essential in intelligence oversight. You are correct in stating that your efforts to redefine the Senate Intelligence Committee's oversight role to encourage the public release of more information has created an uncomfortable feeling in Congress, as well it should. The recent leaks of intelligence issues in the press call for all of us to reassess any concept about encouraging executive and legislative officials to discuss intelligence issues in public.

Your recurring theme that the intelligence community needs to reassess its long-term objectives and resource allocation decisions is appropriate. However, that reassessment should not take place in the public press. You are correct that the Senate needs to reevaluate its intelligence oversight role and we respectfully suggest that your Committee should evaluate critically its own performance, as our committee is doing.

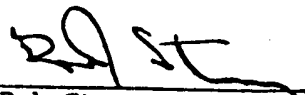
We realize this letter is an unusual step to record our concern in reading comments attributed to you in the newspapers but it is imperative to set

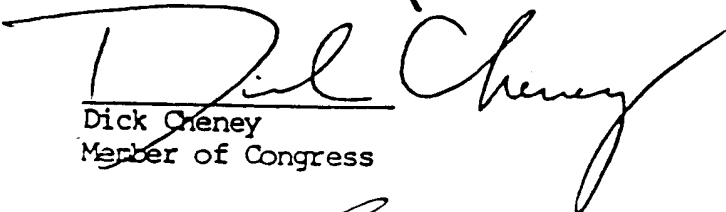
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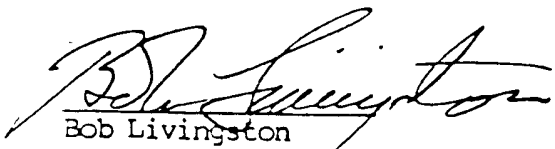
the record straight. Because of the nature and the position of the DCI and employees at the Central Intelligence Agency, they are not at liberty to respond to your unfounded allegations and to demonstrate to the public just how fine their performance has been. We would all agree that nothing is served by attacks on the dedicated men and women in the intelligence community who risk their lives in service to their country in support of the ideas and principles that we all hold so dear.

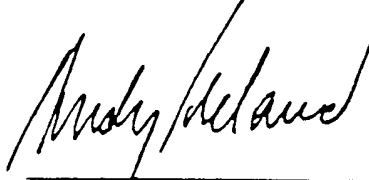
We hope that we can work with you and with the Members of both intelligence oversight committees on ways to improve and expand our intelligence capabilities and to respond to the growing threats to our Nation's security. We strongly believe, however, that public disparagement in the press of our Nation's dedicated intelligence officials contributes nothing to this process.

Sincerely,


Bob Stump
Ranking Minority Member


Dick Cheney
Member of Congress


Bob Livingston
Member of Congress


Andy Ireland
Member of Congress